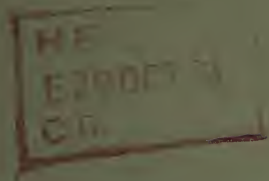


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DOCKING

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1953

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

and SURVEYOR

and the

Report of the

WATERWORKS SUPERINTENDENT

INDEX.

						<i>Page</i>
	Index	...	...	...	...	1
	Introduction	...	...	...	...	3
	Staff	...	...	...	...	4
Part I.	General Report of the Medical Officer of Health.					
Section	1.	Staff	...	...	...	5
"	2.	The Docking Rural District	...	...	...	5
"	3.	Birth and Death Rate	...	...	...	5
"	4.	Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	6
"	5.	Cancer	...	...	...	6
"	6.	Accidents	...	...	...	6
"	7.	Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	6
"	8.	Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	8
"	9.	Accidents in the Home	...	...	...	8
"	10.	Flood Disaster	...	...	...	8
"	11.	Vaccination and Immunisation in Area No. 8	...	...	...	9
Part II.	Medical Statistics.					
Table	1.	General Statistics	...	...	...	10
"	2.	Live Births	...	...	...	10
"	3.	Still Births	...	...	...	10
"	4.	Deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	10
"	5.	Infant Mortality	...	...	...	10
"	6.	Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age	...	...	...	11
"	7.	Cause of Deaths of Infants under One Year	...	...	...	11
"	8.	Cause of Total Deaths	...	...	...	11
"	9.	Deaths according to Ages	...	...	...	12
"	10.	Cancer	...	...	...	12
"	11.	Summary of Vital Statistics	...	...	...	12
"	12.	Summary of Births and Deaths Rates	...	...	...	12
"	13a.	Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	12
"	13b.	Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	12
"	14.	Births, Deaths and Infectious Diseases Statistics based on Quarterly Returns...	...	...	...	13
"	15.	Measles and Whooping Cough	...	...	...	14
"	16.	Tuberculosis (Details of New Cases during 1953)...	...	...	...	14
"	17.	Tuberculosis (Number of Cases on T.B. Register end 1953)	...	...	...	14
"	18.	Tuberculosis (Details of New Cases for last 5 years)	...	...	...	14

Part III.		Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.				<i>Page</i>
Section	1.	Inspections and Visits...	...	...	...	15
"	2.	Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	15
"	3.	Water Supplies	...	...	...	15
"	4.	Notices, Preliminary	...	...	...	16
"	5.	Notices, Statutory	...	...	...	16
"	6.	Food Premises	...	...	...	16
Part IV.		Report of Waterworks Superintendent.				
Section	1.	Pumping Costs	...	...	...	17
"	2.	Pumping Stations	...	...	...	18
"	3.	Distribution	...	...	...	18
"	4.	Mains Extensions	...	...	...	19
"	5.	New Supplies	...	...	...	19
"	6.	Mains—Repairs	...	...	...	20
"	7.	Flooding	...	...	...	20
"	8.	General	...	...	...	20
		Staff	...	...	...	21

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE,
THE RECTORY, WELLS.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended 31st December, 1953.

INTRODUCTION.

Mr, Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration, the Annual Report for the year 1953, compiled according to the directions of the Minister of Health.

The outstanding feature of the year was the flood disaster on the night of the 31st January / 1st February when the coastal fringe of North and West Norfolk was overwhelmed along with the lowlands on both sides of the North Sea, causing the loss of many lives and heavy damage to property and land.

The general health of the District has been relatively good. There was no epidemic of any infectious disease. The death rate was higher than in previous years but when corrected by the comparability factor gives an adjusted rate which is the same as that for the country as a whole.

I have to record that the work of the Department was done by others to whom goes the credit; my responsibility lies in compiling this report.

I thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration shown to the Public Health Staff during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COUTTS MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Docking Rural District Council.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

J. C. JOHNSTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(Up to 22nd July, 1953).

J. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Acting from 23rd July to 15th December, 1953).

J. COUTTS MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M & H.
(From 16th December, 1953).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor :

W. B. JENKINS, M.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

D. BUTTON, C.S.I.B.

G. ANDERSON, C.S.I.B.
(Up to June, 1953).

Part Time Clerk :

MISS PULL

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :

MISS M. HEWITT
(Up to 31st October, 1953).

Waterworks Superintendent :

J. R. DRYSDALE

The Committee concerned with Public Health is the Public
Health Committee

PART I.

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1. Staff.

It is with deep regret that I record the untimely death in July 1953 of Dr. J. C. Johnston, who had been Medical Officer of Health for the District since October 1947 and who during that time, had faithfully carried out his chief function of safeguarding the health of the District by all means at his disposal. His care for the people extended beyond his official duties and was shewn by his ardent interest and sustained endeavour in regard to safety in the home and Red Cross Work.

Dr. J. Hamilton, Medical Officer of Health for King's Lynn Borough and Freebridge Lynn Rural District Council, acted as Medical Officer of Health in addition to his own duties until Dr. Coutts Milne was appointed to the post. The latter took up duty on 16th December, 1953.

Miss M. Hewitt vacated the appointment of Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health on the 31st October and this post remained vacant to the end of the year.

2. The **Docking Rural District** situated in North-West Norfolk comprises 30 parishes and has its administrative centre at Docking. The District is essentially an agricultural one although the 18 miles of coast provide facilities for the mussel industry and an attraction for summer visitors.

The population of the District as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1953 is 17,440. This shews a decrease of 190 from the figure for 1952. The natural increase of births over deaths amounted to 50 so there has been a drift away of people from the District.

3. Birth and Death Rate.

During the year there were 309 live births giving a birth rate of 17.7 per 1,000 of the population. The Comparability factor given by the Registrar General, which when applied to the local rate gives a figure which can be compared with the rates in other areas, is 1.12 for births, giving an adjusted birth rate of 18.8 which compares with the rate of 15.5 for England and Wales as a whole. 28 illegitimate live births were recorded—9% of total births and a figure comparable to that for England and Wales at the end of the War in 1945. The 259 deaths give a crude death rate of 14.8 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The comparability factor is .77 and this gives an adjusted rate of 11.4 which is the same as that for England & Wales.

4. **Infant Mortality Rate.**

There were 12 deaths in children under one year. The infant mortality rate is 38.8 per 1,000 related births compared with 26.8 for England and Wales as a whole. Of the 12 deaths, 11 occurred in infants under 4 weeks of age and 9 were males. It should be noted that rates based on such a small number are apt to be misleading.

5. **Cancer.**

51 of the deaths in the District were recorded from Cancer of various types. 26 of these were males and 25 were females. This is a considerable increase over figures for previous years. The major factor to be considered in interpreting an increase in Cancer deaths is the ageing of the population and in this connection it should be noted that between 30—40% of all deaths were of people aged 80 years or over. Another factor is improvement in diagnostic standards, but this is a factor not susceptible to precise measurement.

Ten of the deaths were from Cancer of the stomach and 6 of those were males, in line with the general experience that this form of Cancer is twice as common in males than in females. Four deaths were recorded from Cancer of the lung—2 males and 2 females. This variety of Cancer is increasing and recent statistical evidence has pointed to smoking as a factor, but the relationship is not a simple one and further research is going on into this aspect of the Cancer problem in various parts of the world.

6. **Accidents.**

34 deaths were recorded under "all other accidents" and the increase here is accounted for by the 30 deaths from drowning during the flood disaster.

7. **Infectious Diseases.**

(a) **GENERAL.** There were 102 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year; a reduction of 356 from the previous year, mainly accounted for by the decline in the number of cases of measles.

(b) **MEASLES.** Only 11 cases were reported during the year compared with 403 in 1952. Outbreaks of Measles normally occur every second year and 1953 with by far the smallest number of cases recorded over the past ten years is obviously in the trough of the epidemic wave of the disease in this part of the country. The District was fortunate in this compared with the experience in the rest of England and Wales where the outbreak of Measles in the first quarter of the year was very severe—notifications in the sixth and seventh weeks of the year being the largest recorded in any week since notification began in 1939.

(c) **WHOOPING COUGH.** 55 cases of Whooping Cough were reported; the same number as in 1952. Most of the cases were children aged 10 or under; one was aged 75 years. As is usual the attack rate was heavier in pre-school children.

(d) **SCARLET FEVER.** 8 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported—compared with 14 in the previous year; 6 of them in March and 7 being school children. The attack rate of this disease is higher amongst school children than pre-school children, and in this differs from Measles and Whooping Cough. The disease continued to be mild in type.

(e) **DIPHTHERIA.** No case was notified during the year. The last case in the District occurred in 1950 in a child aged 3 and the last outbreak in 1941 when 18 cases were reported, with one death. This outbreak was traced to a child visitor who proved to be a carrier of virulent bacilli. The value of diphtheria immunisation is now fully established, but the need for securing immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday and for maintaining immunity by giving booster doses when a child enters school and again 5 years later must continually be impressed on all parents. The recent outbreak of diphtheria in the Midlands has shown that the disease can still occur in this Country.

(f) **POLIOMYELITIS.** No case was notified during the year and there has been none since November, 1951.

(g) **INFECTIVE HEPATITIS.** 20 cases were notified—15 of these occurred during the months of February and March. 8 were males and 12 females. 10 were adults, one being aged 92 years. Combining the figures for cases of Infective Hepatitis for the 3 Districts comprising Area 8, cases notified totalled 35—among a combined population of approximately 43,000, giving an incidence rate of 0.8 per 1,000 per annum. The disease is said to be most frequent during the Autumn and Winter and this was the case in Walsingham Rural District and Wells Urban District, but in Docking Rural District most of the cases occurred in February and March. Children of school age are often chiefly affected, but amongst the 35 cases only 15 were of school age. Spread of infection is known to be from case to case and prevention lies in improved personal and environmental hygiene in school and the home.

(h) **CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.** One isolated case in a child aged 7 years was reported during the year.

(i) **FOOD POISONING.** Only one case was notified during the year.

(j) **TUBERCULOSIS.** 15 new cases were notified during the year, compared with 13 in 1952. 14 of them were Pulmonary in

type, 9 being male patients. Of the 15, 3 were added to the register by inward transfer from other areas. At the end of December 84 cases remained on the register—an increase of 4 over the previous year.

8. Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Three Orders were issued during the year to restrict the sale of milk—two on account of Tuberculosis and one on account of *Brucella Abortus*.

9. Accidents in the Home.

The Heating Appliance (Fire Guards) Regulations, 1953, came into force on 1st October and the Public Health Department was designated as the Department to deal with any matters arising from this Regulation.

10. Flood Disaster.

On the night of 31st January—1st February a disaster of the greatest magnitude struck the District. A combination of high tides and strong North-Easterly gales resulted in flooding all along the coast, Heacham and Snettisham being the villages most severely hit. At Snettisham 23 lives were lost and 7 at Heacham. Very extensive damage was done to property. At Snettisham 23 families and at Heacham 12 families were rendered permanently homeless. Of over 200 dwellings, chiefly holiday accommodation, but 42 of which were occupied as permanent houses, 75% suffered damage ranging from complete destruction to serious injury and the rest also all suffered damage. The villages of Burnham Overy, Holme, Brancaster and Burnham Norton also suffered damage to a greater or lesser extent. Public Health involvement, concerned making emergency mortuary arrangements, safeguarding water supplies and rehousing the homeless and the smaller problems of looking after and feeding the men engaged in repairing the sea banks.

Salt water entered the water supply source at Hunstanton rendering the water at Heacham saline. Fresh water tanks had to be put in and house to house deliveries arranged by the combined Water Department and Public Health Department personnel. Householders were warned to boil this water before drinking. Water sampling was carried out both for salinity and bacteriological purity. Quite a number of independent well water supplies were contaminated. During the period that elapsed after the flooding no case of any bowel or water borne disease was reported. Mention should be made of the utmost co-operation which was received from the Voluntary Organisations, in particular the W.V.S. and Red Cross.

11. Vaccination and Immunisation in Area No. 8.

VACCINATION. Only 230 children under the age of one year were vaccinated during 1953 in Area No. 8, comprising the Rural Districts of Docking and Walsingham and the Urban Districts of Wells and Hunstanton. There were 848 births during the year in the Area, so that only the equivalent of 27% of the children born were vaccinated—not by any means a satisfactory state of affairs. 346 reports of primary vaccination and 232 of re-vaccination were received during the year. The following table gives details of the age groups:—

<i>Age Group</i>		<i>Vaccinated</i>	<i>Re-Vaccinated</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	230	—
Aged 1 year ...	...	7	3
2 to 4 years ...	...	21	20
5 to 14 years ...	...	31	63
15 years and over	...	57	146
	Totals	346	232

INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES. Persons travelling abroad are required to produce evidence of vaccination within a period of 3 years on the prescribed international certificates. These certificates have to be countersigned by the Medical Officer of Health for the district in which the general practitioner resides who has carried out the vaccination.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Diphtheria Immunisation is best carried out during the last quarter of the child's first year of life and "booster" doses require to be given at the ages of 5 and 9 years. Immunisation is carried out at infant welfare centres and at surgeries and homes and re-immunisations at school medical inspections. The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year in Area No. 8.

<i>Primary Immunisation</i>							
<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>Total</i>
203	124	8	2	3	1	4	345
			<i>Booster doses</i>				
	<i>5 to 9 years</i>		<i>10 to 14 years</i>		<i>Total</i>		
	139		32		171		

The number of children in Area No. 8 known to have been immunised at any time up to the end of 1953 is as follows:—

<i>Under school-age</i>	<i>School-age</i>	<i>Total</i>
1649	5009	6658

PART II.

(Medical Statistics)

Table 1. General Statistics.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	87,386
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	17,440
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£69,481
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£268

Table 2. Live Births.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	132	149	281
Illegitimate	...	...	16	12	28
Total	...	...	148	161	309

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 17.7

Table 3. Still Births.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	2	—	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 0.11

Table 4. Deaths (all ages).

<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
116	143	259

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 14.85

Table 5. Infant Mortality. (Deaths of Infants under One year).

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	8	3	11
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
Total	...	...	9	3	12

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 38.83

Table 6. Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of age.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	7	3	10
Illegitimate ...	...	...	1	—	1
Total	...	...	8	3	11

Table 7. Cause of Deaths of Infants under One Year.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Prematurity ...	...	...	3	1	4
Broncho Pneumonia ...	...	...	2	—	2
Asphyxia Livida ...	...	...	1	1	2
Icterus Gravis Neonatorum ...	...	...	1	—	1
Intracranial haemorrhage ...	...	...	—	1	1
Haemorrhage following transfusion for Rhesus incompatibility			1	—	1
Peritonitis (cause unknown) ...	...	...	1	—	1
Total	...	...	9	3	12

Table 8. Cause of Total Deaths.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach			6	4	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	...	...	2	2	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast			—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus			—	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	...	...	18	12	30
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	—	2	2
16. Diabetes ...	...	...	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	11	21	32
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	17	17	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease			1	2	3
20. Other heart disease ...	...	...	12	20	32
21. Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	8	4	12
22. Influenza ...	...	...	—	2	2
23. Pneumonia ...	...	...	7	4	11
24. Bronchitis ...	...	...	3	—	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	...	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum			1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	3	—	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	8	21	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	1	1	2
34. All other accidents ...	...	...	14	20	34
35. Suicide ...	...	...	2	—	2
Total	...	...	116	143	259

Table 9. Deaths according to Ages. (Including Outward Transfers)

			Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year ...	...	...	12	5	17
1 and under 5	...	...	2	1	3
5 " " 10	...	...	1	—	1
10 " " 20	...	...	4	1	5
20 " " 30	...	...	2	5	7
30 " " 40	...	...	4	4	8
40 " " 50	...	...	4	3	7
50 " " 60	...	...	7	7	14
60 " " 70	...	...	25	25	50
70 " " 80	...	...	35	33	68
80 " " 90	...	...	31	56	87
90 " " 100	...	...	3	11	14
			130	151	281
Total Adjusted	...	...	116	143	259

Table 10. Cancer. The following table shows the incidence of Cancer Deaths during the past 5 years :—

			1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Males	...	...	20	21	14	21	26
Females	...	...	20	18	23	14	25

Table 11. Summary of Vital Statistics.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population	16,680	17,290	17,450	17,630	17,440
Live Births	263	299	288	294	309
Still Births	8	5	5	7	2
Deaths	226	209	255	198	259
Infant Deaths	7	11	11	7	12

Table 12. Summary of Births and Deaths Rates.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Live Births	15.76	17.29	15.87	16.67	17.14
Still Births	0.47	0.29	0.28	0.39	0.11
Crude Deaths	13.54	12.09	10.46	11.23	14.85
Infant Mortality	26.51	36.79	36.79	23.8	38.83

Table 13a. Infectious Diseases.

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25	Age Unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	3	2	1	-	-	8
Whooping Cough	4	8	10	29	3	-	1	-	55
Measles	-	2	3	1	3	-	2	-	11

Table 13b. Infectious Diseases.

	Under 5	5-14	Years 15-44	45-64	65 over	Age Unknown	Total
Acute Pneumonia	2	1	1	2	-	-	6
Meningococcal Infections	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Jaundice	1	11	7	-	1	-	20
	3	13	8	2	1	1	28

Table 14. Birth Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953. Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

			<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)</i>	<i>160 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)</i>	<i>Docking Rural District</i>
			Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
BIRTHS.						
Live Births	...	...	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.14
Still Births	...	...	{ .35 22.4(a)	.43 24.8(a)	.34 21.4(a)	.11 17.82(a)
DEATHS.						
All causes	...	...	11.4	12.2	11.3	14.85
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			.00	.00	.00	.00
Whooping Cough	...		.01	.01	.00	.00
Diphtheria	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	.20	.24	.19	.00
Influenza	...	...	.16	.15	.17	.11
Smallpox	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding Polioencephalitis)			.01	.01	.01	.00
Pneumonia	...	...	.55	.59	.52	.61
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected).						
Typhoid Fever	...		.00	.00	.00	.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...		.01	.01	.01	.00
Meningococcal Infection			.03	.04	.03	.05
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1.39	1.50	1.44	.45
Whooping Cough	...		3.58	3.72	3.38	3.15
Diphtheria	...	...	.01	.01	.01	.00
Erysipelas	...	...	.14	.14	.13	.00
Smallpox	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Measles	...	...	12.36	11.27	12.32	.63
Pneumonia	...	...	.84	.92	.76	.34
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding Polioencephalitis)						
Paralytic	...	...	.07	.06	.06	.00
Non-paralytic	...		.04	.03	.04	.00
Food Poisoning	...		.24	.25	.24	.05
Puerperal Pyrexia	...		18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	.00(a)
DEATHS:			Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	38.83
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...		1.1	1.3	.9	.00

Table 15. Measles and Whooping Cough.

		1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Measles	... ..	51	273	23	403	11
Whooping Cough	... ..	35	58	31	55	55

Table 16. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases during 1953)

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—
5	—	2	1	—
15	—	2	—	—
25	2	—	—	—
35	2	—	—	—
45	3	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—
Total	9	5	1	0
Totals	14		1	
Grand Total	15			

Table 17. Tuberculosis. Number of Cases on T.B. Register end 1953)

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	... ..	34	29	63
Non-Pulmonary	... ..	12	9	21
Total	... ..	46	38	84

Table 18. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases for last 5 years)

		1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pulmonary	... M.	3	7	5	6	9
	... F.	5	6	10	4	5
Non-Pulmonary...	... M.	4	4	5	0	1
	... F.	1	4	4	3	0
		13	21	24	13	15

PART III.

Annual Return of Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Details of Inspections and Notices Served.

1. Inspections and Visits.

The numbers of inspections and visits made in connection with the various branches of public health work during the year are as follows :—

Inspections coming within the purview of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the abatement of nuisances, in connection with water supplies, drainage work, bye-law requirements, etc.	519
Housing, for repairs, overcrowding, etc.	268
Interviewing applicants for Council Houses, prior to reporting to Tenants Selection Sub-Committee ...	252
Factories Act	53
Milk and Dairies Regulations	36
Food Premises, for food inspection, bye-law and Food and Drugs Act requirements, including ice-cream premises	159
Visits in connection with the administration of the Public Cleansing Schemes	746
Control of Moveable Dwellings	68
Pests Act, 1949	218
Supervision of public conveniences	81
Shellfish lays, sampling, etc.	14
Visits to interview flood victims, etc.	84
Miscellaneous	252

2. Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries into cases of infectious diseases	22
Fumigation after infectious diseases	6

3. Water Supplies.

Number of samples taken from the public supply ...	31
Of these, 25 were satisfactory, 1 suspicious and 5 unsatisfactory. From private wells, 28 samples were taken, 10 being satisfactory, 1 suspicious and 17 unsatisfactory.	

4. Notices, Preliminary.

The following preliminary notices were served requiring provisions of the various Acts or Regulations to be complied with :—

Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	22
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	30
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	...	...	...	...	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	5
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	...	9
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	...	8

5. Notices, Statutory.

Three Statutory Notices were served during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936, and one Closing Order was made under the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of an unfit house.

All the Statutory Notices were complied with, and with the exception of four outstanding at the end of the year, all the Preliminary Notices were complied with.

6. Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by way of type or business, are as follows :—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	20
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	17
plus school canteens						
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	58
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	90
(These include many of the premises registered to sell ice-cream)						
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	51

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under local Acts, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, are as follows :—

Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	58
Meat preserving premises	...	...	...	...	...	20
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	9

The number of inspections of registered food premises—50.

Disposal of condemned food is by burial, either at premises where found to be unfit, or at refuse tips.

PART IV.

Annual Report of Waterworks Superintendent.

Waterworks Department,
The Mount, Bircham Road,
Docking, King's Lynn.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my report for the period ended
31st December, 1953, for your consideration :—

1. Pumping Costs, etc.

WATER CONSUMPTION.

<i>Source</i>	<i>Total Gallons Pumped</i>	<i>Average Gallons per Day</i>
Great Bircham Boreholes ...	46,200,000	126,570
Fring Boreholes ...	23,622,000	64,720
Hunstanton U. D. C. Bulk Supply for Heacham ...	17,719,000	48,520
Freebridge Lynn R. D. C. Bulk Supply for Houghton	780,000	2,100
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Total Consumptions	88,321,000 galls.	241,910 galls.

PUMPING COSTS.

	<i>Electricity Units Consumed</i>	<i>Total Cost £ s. d.</i>	<i>Cost per 1,000 galls</i>
Great Bircham ...	90,569	783 15 11	4.07 pence
Fring ...	44,793	318 14 6	3.23 pence
Bulk Supply to Heacham Purchased from Hun- stanton U.D.C. ...		664 1 8	10d. to 30/9/53
Bulk Supply to Houghton Purchased from Free- bridge Lynn R.D.C. ...		58 10 6	8d. from 1/10/53 1/6d.

STORAGE.

Reservoir, The Mount, Docking ...	400,000 Gallons
Water Tower, The Mount, Docking	225,000 "
Water Tower, Docking Village ...	30,000 "
Reservoir, Inmere ...	300,000 "
Water Tower, Heacham ...	50,000 "
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Total	1,005,000 Gallons

2. Pumping Stations.

(a) FRING. No. 1 Pump has been completely overhauled and both sets of pumps are now operating at a high rate of efficiency.

The Pumping Station has been re-decorated, the work, which has considerably improved the appearance of the Station, was carried out by the Department Staff.

In order that accurate records of Chlorine dosage may be obtained, the Council has authorised the purchase of a Chart Recording apparatus for use in connection with the Hypo-Chlorinator installed at this Station.

The Well Levels are as follows :—

<i>October, 1952</i>		<i>October, 1953</i>	
Rest Level ...	12 ft. 0 in.	Rest Level ...	11 ft. 6 in.
Pumping Level	19 ft. 0 in.	Pumping Level	18 ft. 6 in. .

(b) GREAT BIRCHAM. The Pumping Plant has operated quite satisfactorily, only normal maintenance duties being required, but a defect which occurred on the Float Switch Cable was only located and repaired after considerable difficulty.

The Well Levels at this Station are as follows :—

<i>October, 1952</i>		<i>October, 1953</i>	
Rest Level ...	20 ft. 0 in.	Rest Level ...	20 ft. 0 in.
Pumping Level	42 ft. 0 in.	Pumping Level	41 ft. 0 in.

(c) Strict supervision has been exercised over the purity of the supply and in collaboration with the Council's Public Health Department a total of 31 samples have been submitted for analysis.

3. Distribution.

(a) DISTRICT SCHEME. Considerable progress has been made with connecting consumers to the mains supply.

The many advantages of a pure public water supply has been clearly demonstrated and a number of consumers who had not availed themselves of the Council's Free Service offer, have now had the supply installed to their properties, bearing the full cost of the works themselves.

The daily average consumption of this scheme has increased to 126,000 gallons.

In order that water distributed to Stages 1 and 2 of the District Scheme may be accurately assessed, arrangements are being made for the installation of Venturi Meters at the Reservoir and Water Tower.

Bye-pass Valves have also been installed at various points on the line of the trunk mains, enabling the Portable Waste Recording Meter to be utilized for checking consumptions and wastage to individual parishes.

(b) **DERSINGHAM SCHEME.** The daily average consumption has shown a small decrease in this area and is accounted for by :—

(a) Docking Village is now being supplied via the District Scheme.

(b) Disconnection of supply to Snettisham Beach area as a result of flood damage.

4. **Mains Extensions.**

Mains extensions have been carried out as follows :—

Burnham Market, Sutton Estate	...	Approximately	220 yards
Groveside Estate, East Rudham	...	"	110 "
Firs Approach Road, Holme...	...	"	600 "
Gelham Manor Estate, Dersingham	...	"	120 "
Water Lane Estate, Snettisham	...	"	120 "
Meadow Road, Heacham	... ..	"	320 "

In addition to carrying out the mains extensions at Groveside Estate, East Rudham and Burnham Sutton Estate, Burnham Market, properties on these estates hitherto supplied from boreholes sunk on the sites, were connected to the mains supply.

Considerable damage to private supplies, caused by the Sea Water Flooding, necessitated extending the mains supply to Firs Approach Road, Holme, and the laying of the pipes by " Mole Plough " enabled the work to be completed expeditiously.

The 2-inch steel main supplying Meadow Road, Heacham, has been replaced by a 4-inch C.I. main and inter-connections have been made at the Caley Street and Collins Lane junctions. This work has provided a valuable alternative route of supply should a main fracture in the High Street area.

5. **New Supplies.**

New supplies connected during the year are as follows :—

<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Special Charges</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Scheme</i>
309	40	41	390	District Scheme
31	5	16	52	Old Scheme

In connection with metered supplies, it is interesting to note that a 2-inch supply was laid to Field House Farm, Brancaster. A total length of 2,600 yards of pipe being necessary for this supply.

The easing of the restrictions on galvanised pipe enabled the Department to deal with this work at very short notice and the installation was completed with a minimum of delay.

6. **Mains—Repairs.**

Fractures have occurred on several small diameter mains in the Dersingham Scheme and an examination of a defective section at Carrpit Lane, Snettisham, has shown that graphitization of the main has taken place. The cause of the deterioration is being investigated with a view to remedial action being taken.

7. **Flooding.**

The serious floods of 31st January caused considerable damage to the water mains and supply pipes in the Heacham and Snettisham Beach Areas and, although the supply to Heacham North Beach has been repaired, it will be necessary to relay large sections of mains at Heacham South Beach and Snettisham Beaches if the supply is to be re-established.

Certain sections of main at Heacham and Snettisham will also need relaying at the points where the new sea bank is crossed.

In addition to dealing with the damage to water mains, the Department was also called upon to supply drinking water to Hunstanton Urban District Council and the parish of Heacham where the supplies had become contaminated as a result of sea water flooding at Hunstanton Pumping Station. Samples taken in the Heacham area disclosed a salinity content in the mains water supply of up to 2340 P.P.M.

During the eight days it was necessary to maintain a drinking supply to these areas, approximately 150,000 gallons of water was supplied by tanker service, the supplies being obtained from the District Scheme mains at Ringstead. The valuable co-operation of the Royal Engineers, N.S.A., Air Force, Norfolk Fire Service and other Authorities who placed at our disposal tankers and personnel enabled an adequate supply to be maintained during this difficult period.

8. **General.**

The Central Depot at The Mount, Docking, has now been completed and Office accommodation, Stores, Workshops and Garages have been provided.

Two new motor vehicles have been purchased and the 5-cwt. van has been completely overhauled. In addition, a number of

plant and tool items, essential to the adequate maintenance of the pumping and distribution system, have been purchased, including a Motor Trench Pump, Mechanical Road Breaker, Lifting Tackle, etc.

Provision has also been made for the installation of Meter Repair and Testing Plant, the number of metered supplies has increased considerably during the past few years and their regular testing and repair is essential.

Staff.

The Council have decided to appoint a Water Inspector to the Department and the post has now been advertised.

In conclusion I gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance rendered to me by the Water Committee, the Clerk and Officers of the Council and I have pleasure in expressing my thanks to all members of the Department for their loyal and efficient service during a very difficult year.

I am, Your obedient servant,

J. R. DRYSDALE,

Waterworks Superintendent.

STAFF

J. R. DRYSDALE, *Waterworks Superintendent*

H. R. L. STRAWBRIDGE, *Deputy Waterworks Superintendent*

J. NEWMAN, *Assistant Superintendent (Mains)*

W. A. CLARK, *Storekeeper/Clerk*

.....*Water Inspector*

